

Mike Cuffe

From: Nancy Lehenky <nancy_lehenky@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 4:21 PM
To: mike@mcuffe.com
Subject: Senate Bill 215

Dear Rep. Cuffe,

Senate Bill 215 will be introduced to the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday, March 10, 2011. As the owners and operators of Flathead Distillers, located on Black Lake Rd. outside Eureka, David and I encourage you to vote "Yes" on SB 215.

The passage of SB 215 will allow all micro distillers, both inside and outside of Montana, who use Montana agricultural products in their spirits, the opportunity to receive a reduction on the Department of Revenue Liquor Warehouse Markup. Overall impact to revenue, based upon total sales of Montana mircros year-to-date, would **result in less than 1/10 of 1% change** to the State Liquor Warehouse revenues and an undetectable change in overall State General Fund Revenues. Additionally, the largest reduction in the markup is still calculated to be sufficient to cover the actual warehouse operating costs. We will not be subsidized by other, non-qualifying distilleries.

Not only will the Montana Agricultural industry see an increase in the sales of raw materials to micro distillers with the passage of SB 215, but the burgeoning Montana distilled spirits industry will be able to compete with national brands on an even playing field and be able to employ more local residents as we expand our businesses.

We started our business outside of Eureka in 2009, and the passage of SB 215 will help us continue to grow and contribute to the future of Lincoln County. If you have any questions or concerns regarding SB 215, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Nancy Lehenky
David Lehenky



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